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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**ERIN HAIGHT,**  
individually and on behalf of herself  
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

**SHARP ELECTRONICS  
CORPORATION,**

Defendant.

Case No.: 3:19-CV-371 [MAD/DEP]

**Jury Trial Demanded**

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Erin Haight (“Plaintiff”), by and through undersigned counsel, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, brings this Class Action Complaint against Sharp Electronics Corporation (“Defendant” or “Sharp”) and in support alleges, upon information and belief and based on the investigation to date of counsel, as follows:

**NATURE OF ACTION**

1  
2 1. Sharp is one of the largest technology companies in the world. It designs,  
3 manufactures and sells a variety of technological products, including kitchen appliances such as  
4 microwaves.

5 2. Sharp's kitchen appliance portfolio includes multiple different types of microwaves,  
6 including microwave drawers (the "Microwaves" or the "Products"), which are the subject of this  
7 action. On its website, Sharp boasts that it "has been innovating microwave cooking for decades  
8 and holds 11 patents on the Microwave Drawer platform alone. Engineered for consistency and  
9 built with the finest quality materials, great cooks trust the Microwave Drawer to deliver great  
10 results every time."<sup>1</sup> Over the course of several decades, Sharp has gained the trust of consumers,  
11 who reasonably believe that Sharp products are made with quality materials, and that the Sharp  
12 products can be used safely, as intended.

13 3. Microwave drawers, as described by Sharp, "offer[] flexible placement options so  
14 you can focus on the design elements you prefer by maximizing sight-lines and enabling more  
15 design versatility than typical built-in, over-the-range or countertop microwaves."<sup>2</sup>

16 4. Sharp's microwave drawers are intended by Sharp to be installed within cabinets,  
17 under countertops, or adjacent to wall ovens.<sup>3</sup>

18 5. Sharp has offered six models for its microwave drawers, and currently offers five of  
19 those six: SMD2470AH, SMD2470AS, SMD3070AS, SMD2480CS, KB6524PS, and KB6525PS  
20 (collectively, the "Microwaves"). The designs of these Microwaves are substantially similar and  
21 each model is the subject of this class action lawsuit.

22 6. The price of the Microwaves is between \$1,000.00 and \$1,700.00.  
23

24 <sup>1</sup><http://www.sharppusa.com/ForHome/HomeAppliances/Microwaves/MicrowaveDrawer.aspx> (last  
25 accessed Mar. 12, 2019).

26 <sup>2</sup><http://www.sharppusa.com/ForHome/HomeAppliances/Microwaves/MicrowaveDrawerDark.aspx>  
(last accessed Mar. 12, 2019).

27 <sup>3</sup>[http://files.sharppusa.com/Downloads/ForHome/HomeAppliances/MicrowaveOvens/BuildersGu  
28 ides/2017-Builders%20Guide\\_3-20-17.pdf](http://files.sharppusa.com/Downloads/ForHome/HomeAppliances/MicrowaveOvens/BuildersGuides/2017-Builders%20Guide_3-20-17.pdf) (last accessed Mar. 12, 2019).

1           7.     The Microwaves all contain a defect that makes them unreasonably dangerous, as  
2 they are susceptible to catching fire, and unsuitable for their intended use. More specifically, the  
3 Microwaves are defectively designed and/or manufactured such that, under normal and intended  
4 use, the electromagnetic waves generated by the magnetron tube are unable to properly move  
5 through the waveguide into the cooking cavity, resulting in buzzing, smoking, overheating, and  
6 eventual destruction of the magnetron, leading to scorching of the waveguide.

7           8.     Accordingly, the Microwaves are unreasonably dangerous and not fit for household  
8 use.

9           9.     The manifestation of the defect and damage to the Microwaves are not a result of  
10 overcooking or prolonged heating by the owner. It can take less than 30 seconds for the magnetron  
11 tube to overheat, scorch the back panel of the Microwaves, produce smoke, and fail altogether.

12           10.    Sharp has undertaken a deliberate and willful pattern of conduct (including taking  
13 active measures) aimed at concealing the Microwave defect from its consumers, including the  
14 Plaintiff.

15           11.    At all relevant times, Sharp knew or should have known about the defect but  
16 nevertheless marketed, advertised, and sold the Microwaves without warning consumers that the  
17 Microwaves are likely to overheat and could result in buzzing, overheating of the magnetron,  
18 scorching of the waveguide, smoking, and ultimate failure.

19           12.    Indeed, rather than providing consumers with new, non-defective Microwaves after  
20 their Microwaves overheated, Sharp either replaced each defective Microwave with another  
21 defective Microwave, improperly denied the warranty claim, and/or forced the consumer to sign a  
22 waiver or buy an extended warranty as a remedy. Sharp failed to disclose the known defect or  
23 provide the customer with a non-defective replacement product.

24           13.    The replacement Microwaves also fail, or are likely to fail in the same manner,  
25 leaving consumers fearful of additional smoke and fire caused by the Microwaves, and to contend  
26 with Microwaves that do not function as intended

27           14.    As a direct and proximate result of Sharp's concealment of the defect, its failure to  
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1 warn customers about the defect before their purchase of the Microwaves, and its failure to recall  
2 the Product or remedy the defect, Plaintiff and other similarly situated customers (“Class” or “Class  
3 Members”) purchased and used Sharp’s defective Microwaves when they otherwise would not have  
4 made such purchases or would not have paid as much for the defective Microwaves.

5 15. Plaintiff’s and putative Class Members’ Microwaves have failed (or are likely to  
6 fail) as a result of the defect when Plaintiff and Class Members use the Products as intended,  
7 resulting in damage to the Microwaves and other property, including smoke damage to cabinetry,  
8 kitchen islands and peninsulas, and other interior parts of their homes, and the loss of meals  
9 prepared in the Microwaves.

10 16. Plaintiff and all putative Class Members’ Microwaves contain the same defect at the  
11 point of sale, pose substantially the same safety risk to Plaintiff, Class Members, consumers, and  
12 the public. Sharp’s Microwaves cannot be used safely for their intended purpose of preparing  
13 meals at home.

#### 14 **PARTIES**

15 17. Plaintiff Haight is a resident and citizen of Delhi, Delaware County, New York.

16 18. Defendant Sharp Electronics Corporation is a New Jersey corporation with its  
17 principal place of business located in Montvale, New Jersey.

18 19. Sharp distributes and markets and directs the marketing of the Microwaves in New  
19 York, and throughout the United States.

#### 20 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

21 20. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
22 § 1332(d) because: (1) there are one hundred or more (named or unnamed) class members, (2) there  
23 is an aggregate amount in controversy exceeding \$5,000,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs,  
24 and (3) there is minimal diversity because Plaintiff and Defendant are citizens of different States.  
25 This Court also has supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §  
26 1367.

1           21. This Court may exercise personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant  
2 does substantial business in this State and within this District, receives substantial compensation  
3 and profits from the marketing, distribution, and sales of products in this District, and has engaged  
4 in the unlawful practices described in this Complaint in this District.

5           22. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial  
6 part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in this District.

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8                           **COMMON FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

9           23. Microwave ovens have been ubiquitous in American kitchens for several decades.  
10 Consumers have become accustomed to the simplicity and quick cooking that microwave ovens  
11 provide, and rely upon manufacturers, including Sharp, to ensure their safe and efficient use.

12           24. Sharp is a household name, and one in which consumers have relied upon for the  
13 safety and quality of microwave ovens for more than 40 years. Sharp introduced the first microwave  
14 oven with a turntable in the 1960s, and in the late 1970s, Sharp introduced low-cost microwave  
15 ovens for residential use.<sup>4</sup>

16           25. Upon information and belief, Sharp was the first to design, patent, and manufacture  
17 microwave drawers. In fact, Sharp owns the trademark for the term "Microwave Drawer."<sup>5</sup>

18           26. Sharp is engaged in the business of designing, manufacturing, warranting,  
19 marketing, advertising, distributing, and selling the Microwaves. Each of the Microwaves is  
20 branded with the "Sharp" logo or, upon information and belief, can be readily identified as being a  
21 Sharp designed, manufactured, and distributed product.

22           27. The Microwaves are used, and are intended by Sharp to be used, for safe food  
23 preparation.

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26 <sup>4</sup> <http://www.sharppusa.com/AboutSharp/CompanyProfile/SharpAndTechnologyHistory.aspx> (last  
accessed Mar. 12, 2019)

27 <sup>5</sup> <http://www.sharppusa.com/ForHome/HomeAppliances/Microwaves/MicrowaveDrawer.aspx> (last  
28 accessed Mar. 12, 2019).

1           28.     Microwaves are high voltage appliances that are a considerable electrical hazard if  
2 they are defectively designed or manufactured.

3           29.     Each Microwave contains a magnetron, which is powered by a high voltage  
4 transformer, generating the electromagnetic energy waves (“electromagnetic energy” or “waves”) in the Microwaves. The magnetron is a vacuum tube device that generates the energy needed to  
5 heat food within the microwave. In other words, when a consumer cooks food in a microwave oven,  
6 the magnetron takes electricity from the power outlet and converts it into high-powered radio waves  
7 that are transmitted down a waveguide.  
8

9           30.     The waveguide directs the radio waves generated by the magnetron from one end of  
10 the waveguide to the other end and into the cooking cavity. The waves enter the cooking cavity and  
11 are directed and distributed throughout the cooking cavity by a mode stirrer. The purpose of the  
12 mode stirrer is to ensure the waves are distributed throughout the cooking cavity so that the food is  
13 evenly cooked. A mode stirrer is utilized in microwaves that do not have a carousel to move the  
14 waves throughout the food.

15           31.     Each of the Sharp-branded Microwaves contains a defect that prevents the waves  
16 from properly moving through the waveguide into the cooking cavity. More specifically, the  
17 electromagnetic energy that originates from the magnetron tube becomes obstructed or disturbed  
18 while moving through the waveguide. This obstruction or disturbance prevents a substantial portion  
19 of the energy from being properly guided into the cooking cavity.

20           32.     The obstruction or disturbance in the electromagnetic energy’s movement down the  
21 waveguide causes the energy that is not transmitted to the cooking cavity to arc and otherwise  
22 concentrate near the magnetron, burning the waveguide and causing the magnetron tube to overheat.  
23 As a result of the overheating, the magnetron tube anode terminal (the top of the magnetron tube)  
24 melts and the waveguide is scorched.

25           33.     Expert investigation has revealed evidence of a localized hot spot on the waveguide,  
26 which was observed several inches from the magnetron during normal operation.  
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1           34.     The hot spot is consistent with a faulty design by Sharp, in which the magnetron, the  
2 waveguide, and its load (the food) are not properly matched to one another in size and/or ratio,  
3 resulting in premature failure of the magnetron tube.

4           35.     Customers' experience and technicians' reports, including burn patterns in the  
5 Microwaves, are consistent with premature failure of the magnetron and an increased Voltage  
6 Standing Wave Ratio ("VSWR").

7           36.     Waveguide problems, such as localized energy disturbances, are consistent with an  
8 increased VSWR. The manufacturer's data sheets for magnetron tubes indicate that an increase in  
9 the VSWR reduces magnetron life.

10          37.     Further, the Microwaves are designed and marketed as having 950 watts cooking  
11 capacity; however, due to the obstruction or disturbance in the transmission of the energy to the  
12 cooking cavity, the Microwaves operate at a maximum of only 750 watts.

13          38.     While microwave drawers have only been on the market for approximately 20 years,  
14 successful alternative designs for the manufacture of microwaves that utilize  
15 magnetron/waveguide/mode stirrer technology have existed since the 1970s.

16          39.     The Microwaves also lack an appropriate safety mechanism to prevent the  
17 magnetron from overheating, and causing smoke, burning, and premature failure.

18          40.     Sharp expressly and impliedly warranted, via user manuals, advertisements,  
19 pamphlets, brochures, circulars, samples, and/or models, that the Microwaves are fit for the  
20 ordinary purpose for which such goods are sold.

21          41.     Sharp expressly warrants in its user manuals that the Microwaves are free from  
22 defects in workmanship and materials.

23          42.     Specifically, Sharp claims that the magnetron tube is warranted for a period of five  
24 years, while all other parts and labor receive a one-year warranty.

25          43.     The defect renders the Microwaves unfit for the ordinary purpose for which they are  
26 used.

45. Had Plaintiff, Class Members, and the consuming public known that the Microwaves were defective, posed an unreasonable risk of harm to themselves and their property, and would cause damage, they would not have purchased the Microwaves.

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1           51.     The replacement Microwave was installed in Plaintiff's kitchen in late July or early  
2 August of 2017, and she began to use it as it was intended to be used. From the time of installation  
3 until the incident described below, Plaintiff used the Microwave as intended, cleaning it  
4 appropriately, and maintaining it in a reasonable manner as an owner of an appliance.

5           52.     In or around July of 2018, Plaintiff was heating food when the replacement  
6 Microwave began to spark and emit smoke. Again, fearing that the Microwave posed a fire and  
7 safety risk, she unplugged it, and notified Sharp of the problem.

8           53.     Sharp opened a second case file related to the replacement Microwave, and  
9 requested Plaintiff send photographs of the labels, which she did. Initially, Sharp apologized and  
10 asked Plaintiff if she would consider purchasing the extended warranty on the replacement  
11 Microwave. Plaintiff declined that offer. Subsequently, Plaintiff received a call from someone  
12 located in the "Office of the President," offering to replace the Microwave again with an "upgrade  
13 model" in exchange for signing a "resolve" letter releasing Sharp of any liability associated with  
14 the Microwave. The Sharp representative further stated that the "inner workings" of the  
15 Microwaves had been fixed and the replacement would not have the same issue. As Plaintiff had  
16 already experienced failure in both her original and replacement Microwaves, Plaintiff had no  
17 reason to believe Sharp had actually fixed the defect with the Microwave, and she did not wish to  
18 waive her rights based on Sharp's unfounded representations about fixing the "inner workings" of  
19 the Microwave. Thus, she did not respond to the offer.

20           54.     Because Sharp fraudulently concealed the defect from her during her initial warranty  
21 claim, as well as after the replacement Microwave was installed in her home and being used,  
22 Plaintiff did not suspect (and had no reason to suspect) that the Microwave are uniformly defective  
23 until the defect manifested in her replacement Microwave, in or around July of 2018.

24           55.     Plaintiff's original Microwave and replacement Microwave did not operate safely for  
25 their life expectancy. Had Plaintiff known of the defect, she would have either not purchased the  
26 Microwave, or would have paid less than she did for the Microwave. Therefore, she did not receive  
27 the benefit of her bargain.

**SHARP'S ACTUAL OR  
CONSTRUCTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEFECT**

56. Sharp knew or should have known when it sold the Microwaves to the public that the Microwaves suffered from the defect, and that the defect caused the Microwaves to function improperly during their expected useful life, represented an unreasonable risk that the Microwaves would overheat, and might result in significant personal injury and/or property damage to consumers and the public.

57. Sharp's knowledge of these facts is established through consumer complaints, including several years of public Internet posts complaining that the Microwaves failed during normal use, and warranty claims. Despite its knowledge, Sharp did not remedy or eliminate the defect in the Microwaves or remove them from the stream of commerce.

58. Instead, Sharp replaced the defective Microwaves with equally defective Microwaves, improperly denied warranty claims, and often tried to force consumers into signing releases and waivers of their rights if the consumer sought relief from the manufacturer.

59. Sharp's actual knowledge of the defect is evidenced by its responses to consumer complaints submitted to <https://www.saferproducts.gov>, cited *infra*, wherein Sharp continues to attempt to discredit reports of the defect in the Microwaves.

60. Sharp's response to numerous customer complaints demonstrate that not only is Sharp aware of the dangerous and potentially harmful defect, it attempts to actively conceal the dangerous defect from consumers.

61. Customer complaints are also available online regarding the Microwaves. For example, one consumer noted:<sup>6</sup>

Sharp Microwave oven model KB6524PS caused much smoke during normal use. The unit is 3 years old and I had called Sharp within 4 months of purchasing to report loud humming that would happen randomly. I was advised that this happens from time to time and that it was normal and not a warrantable condition.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.saferproducts.gov/ViewIncident/1664034> (last accessed Dec. 27, 2018).

The noise has been becoming more frequent and recently the noise is present with smoke now that fills my kitchen. I called the help line and they said that this happens from time to time and that it is not something to worry about.

62. Another consumer noted:<sup>7</sup>

I want Sharp to acknowledge and provide support for all consumers claiming any sparks, melting or smoke with these microwaves- apparently this is frequent and needs to be addressed in order to prevent death or harm to children and adults. I would also like a full reimbursement to re-purchase a microwave that is not a fire-hazard for my family, a new replacement of the existing microwave, or a different microwave that will not pose any safety risks to my children and will fit in the kitchen cabinet built specifically for this model. Sharp needs to be held accountable and stand up for their name and products. They should not wait for a fatality or lawsuit to stop them from concealing consumers complaints of a safety hazard in their homes and knowingly misguiding consumers.

63. Another consumer noted:<sup>8</sup>

We own two Sharp Microwave Drawers - model smd2470AS. Both were manufactured in September 2015, installed in a new home in January 2016 and not used until we moved in in March 2016. Each unit is on its own independent electrical circuit, with no other appliances on either circuit.

On Saturday, May 7th around noon, while cooking a sausage, one of the units (serial number 128968) had an electrical "event" - significant smoke pouring out of the unit accompanied by loud cracking electrical noise. The circuit breaker did not trip. I called Sharp immediately and reported this event (Sharp case number [REDACTED]). As it was a Saturday, the[y] asked that I call back on Monday.

On Sunday, May 8th, while i was using the other unit (serial number 128862) to cook a potato, it also had an identical electrical "event" - significant smoke pouring out of the unit accompanied by loud cracking electrical noise. Again, the circuit breaker did not trip. On Monday, May 9th I called Sharp and added this information (Sharp case number [REDACTED]).

I told the Sharp personnel that had I not been in the kitchen there could have been a major, house-threatening electrical fire. I offered to have them remove the units to analyze what is happening. The Sharp "Safety Department" seems not to be interested in this.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.saferproducts.gov/ViewIncident/1581834> (last accessed Dec. 27, 2018).

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.saferproducts.gov/ViewIncident/1571856> (last accessed Dec. 27, 2018).

64. Another consumer noted on an Amazon page selling the Microwave:<sup>9</sup>

Why is Amazon still selling this Microwave on their website with the significant problems reported? All you need to do is look at the feedback with a rating of 1 and you can see there is a manufacturing defect. This Microwave is just 6 months installed and it melted down like Chernobyl.....sounded more like a garbage disposal then a microwave. Smoke started pouring out of the unit and got so hot I can't believe it didn't start a fire.... Very concerned based on what others have noted that replacing this unit under warranty still results in same issues and this problem has not been addressed by Sharp. I have to imag[in]e it won't be long before someone decides to start a Class Action lawsuit, or there is a major recall.

65. Another consumer reported as follows:<sup>10</sup>

After one week of use we heard buzzing sound and there was lots of smoke. Took one week to get repair person here, see photos of burnt area under the chassis frame. Product has a defect that causes the painted area to burn. Repairman indicated mine was the third unit he had seen with this issue, knew right where to look. The unit is under warranty, and so I will be getting a replacement. Sharp assures me the new unit is free of any issue, which means they know of this. No other manufacturers make a drawer microwave (all use Sharp as the base model). I am stuck as the cabinet was built for this unit.

66. In conjunction with Sharp's experience designing and selling the Microwaves, these facts and complaints illustrate that Sharp knew or should have known of the defect.

67. Sharp has a duty to disclose the defect and to not conceal the defect from Plaintiff and Class Members. Sharp's failure to disclose, or active concealment of, the serious safety defect places Plaintiff and Class members at risk of personal injury and/or property damage.

68. Sharp is currently still selling the defective Microwaves, concealing the defect, failing to notify consumers of the safety defect, and failing to recall the Microwaves.

<sup>9</sup><https://www.amazon.com/Sharp-SMD2470AS-Microwave-24-Inch-Stainless/dp/B00U6YFOZ6?th=1> (last accessed Dec. 27, 2018).

<sup>10</sup>[https://www.amazon.com/Sharp-SMD2470AS-Microwave-24-Inch-Stainless/product-reviews/B00U6YFOZ6/ref=cm\\_cr\\_getr\\_d\\_paging\\_btm\\_next\\_9?sortBy=recent&pageNumber=9](https://www.amazon.com/Sharp-SMD2470AS-Microwave-24-Inch-Stainless/product-reviews/B00U6YFOZ6/ref=cm_cr_getr_d_paging_btm_next_9?sortBy=recent&pageNumber=9) (last accessed Dec. 27, 2018).

1           69.     Moreover, Sharp continues to falsely represent through written warranties that the  
2 Microwaves are free from defect, are of merchantable quality, and will perform dependably for  
3 years.

4           70.     When corresponding with customers, Sharp does not disclose that the Microwaves  
5 suffer from the defect. As a result, reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff and Class members,  
6 purchased and used, and continue to purchase and use, the Microwaves in their homes even though  
7 it is unsafe to do so.

8           71.     When Sharp replaces units, it fails to disclose known defects and it replaces the  
9 defective Microwaves with equally defective Microwaves. Some consumers, including Plaintiff  
10 Haight, have received replacement Microwaves, which have failed or will fail in the same manner.

11           72.     Had Plaintiff, Class Members, and the consuming public known that the  
12 Microwaves were defective, posed an unreasonable risk of harm to themselves and their property,  
13 and would cause damage, they would not have purchased the Microwaves.

14           73.     Sharp has wrongfully placed on Plaintiff and Class members the burden, expense,  
15 and difficulty involved in discovering the defect, repairing and replacing the Microwaves  
16 (potentially multiple times), and paying for the cost of damages caused by the defect.

17  
18                   **TOLLING AND ESTOPPEL OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

19           74.     Sharp had actual awareness for years that the Microwaves contain a defect that  
20 causes the magnetron to overheat and the unit to burn and prematurely fail.

21           75.     Although Sharp was aware of the dangerous defect, it took no steps to warn Plaintiff  
22 or the Class of such defect and the dangers the defect would pose.

23           76.     At least by 2015, if not earlier, Sharp had received numerous reports from consumers  
24 of incidents of loud noises, foul odors, smoke, and fire associated with the Microwaves.

25           77.     Sharp has purportedly changed its manufacturing process in its attempt to correct the  
26 problem for newly manufactured Sharp-branded microwave ovens, without notifying consumers of  
27

1 these changes.

2 78. Sharp did not, however, issue a recall, warn consumers, or take any other affirmative  
3 steps to correct the problem in the Microwaves already in the field with the defective magnetron,  
4 nor did Sharp take steps to alert members of the Class about the problem.

5 79. Despite its knowledge, Sharp concealed the fact that the Microwaves were defective,  
6 even though it had a duty to disclose the defect.

7 80. Sharp made affirmative misrepresentations to consumers during the sale of the  
8 Microwaves, including that the Microwaves were free of defects and that the Microwaves would  
9 be repaired or replaced within the first five (5) years after purchase if the magnetron tube failed to  
10 operate.

11 81. In fact, Sharp's Warranty provides:

12 One (1) year parts and labor including in-home service. The warranty period  
13 continues for an additional four (4) years, for a total of five (5) years, with respect  
14 to the magnetron tube in the Product for parts only; labor and service are not  
provided free of charge for this additional period.

15 82. Sharp made affirmative misrepresentations to Plaintiff and consumers during  
16 warranty claims and other correspondence with consumers lodging complaints, including that, their  
17 Microwave failures were anomalous; problems with the Microwaves have been resolved in an effort  
18 to persuade consumers to accept replacement Microwaves; Microwaves more than one (1) year old  
19 were out of warranty; and in other ways to be discovered.

20 83. At all times, Sharp concealed that the Microwaves and any replacements were  
21 defective.

22 84. Sharp's concealment was material to Plaintiff and Class Members' decision to  
23 purchase the Microwaves. Sharp's concealment was knowing, and Sharp intended to mislead  
24 Plaintiff and Class Members into relying upon it. Accordingly, Plaintiff and Class Members relied  
25 upon Sharp's concealment of these material facts and suffered injury as a proximate result of that  
26 justifiable reliance.

27 85. The defect in the design and/or manufacture of the Microwaves was not detectible  
28

1 to Plaintiff and members of the Class.

2 86. Sharp actively and intentionally concealed the existence of the defect and failed to  
3 inform Plaintiff or Class Members of the existence of the defect at all times, including when they  
4 contacted Sharp about the problems. Accordingly, Plaintiff and Class Members' lack of awareness  
5 was not attributable to lack of diligence on their part.

6 87. Sharp's statements, words, and acts were made for the purpose of suppressing the  
7 truth that the Microwaves, including the replacement Microwaves, were defective.

8 88. Sharp concealed the defect for the purpose of delaying Plaintiff and Class Members  
9 from filing a complaint on their causes of action.

10 89. As a result of Sharp's active concealment of the defect and/or failure to inform  
11 Plaintiff and members of the Class of the defect, any and all applicable statutes of limitations  
12 otherwise applicable to the allegations herein have been tolled. Furthermore, Sharp is estopped from  
13 relying on any statutes of limitations in light of its active concealment of the defective nature of the  
14 Microwaves.

15 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

16 90. Plaintiff brings this action individually and as a class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ.  
17 P. 23(a), 23(b)(2), and 23(b)(3) on behalf of the following Class:

18  
19 All persons residing in the State of New York who purchased a Sharp Microwave  
20 Drawer, model numbers SMD2470AH, SMD2470AS, SMD3070AS,  
SMD2480CS, KB6524PS, and KB6525PS.

21 91. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify the class definition if necessary to include  
22 additional Sharp Microwave Drawer models with the same defect and/or other Microwave Drawers  
23 manufactured by Sharp with the common defect but bearing different brand names.

24 92. Numerosity: The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members  
25 is impracticable. While the exact number of Class members is presently unknown, it consists of  
26 thousands of people geographically disbursed throughout New York. The number of Class  
27



members can be determined by sales information and other records. Moreover, joinder of all potential Class members is not practicable given their numbers and geographic diversity. The Class is readily identifiable from information and records in the possession of Sharp and its third-party distributors.

93. Commonality: Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class. These questions predominate over questions that may affect only individual Class Members because Sharp has acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class. Such common legal or factual questions include, *inter alia*:

- (a) Whether the Microwaves are defective;
- (b) Whether the Microwaves are defectively designed and/or manufactured;
- (c) Whether Sharp knew or reasonably should have known about the defect prior to distributing the Microwaves to Plaintiff and the Class;
- (d) Whether Sharp concealed from and/or failed to disclose to Plaintiff and the Class the problems with the Microwaves;
- (e) Whether Sharp knew or reasonably should have known about the defect after distributing the Microwaves to Plaintiff and the Class;
- (f) Whether Sharp breached express warranties relating to the Microwaves;
- (g) Whether Sharp was unjustly enriched by receiving moneys in exchange for Microwaves that were defective;
- (h) Whether Sharp should be ordered to disgorge all or part of the ill-gotten profits it received from the sale of the defective Microwaves;
- (i) Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to damages, including compensatory, exemplary, and statutory damages, and the amount of such damages;
- (j) Whether Sharp should be enjoined from selling and marketing its defective Microwaves;
- (k) Whether Sharp engaged in unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive trade practices by selling and/or marketing defective Microwaves; and
- (l) Whether Sharp negligently designed or manufactured the defective Microwaves.

94. Typicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the members of the Class as all members of the Class are similarly affected by the same defect and Sharp's actionable conduct. Plaintiff and



1 all members of the Class purchased the Microwaves with a defect that makes the Microwaves  
2 inherently dangerous. In addition, Sharp's conduct that gave rise to the claims of Plaintiff and  
3 members of the Class (*i.e.* delivering a defective microwave drawer, concealing the defect, and  
4 breaching warranties respecting the microwave drawer) is the same for all members of the Class.

5 95. Adequacy of Representation: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests  
6 of the Class because she has no interests antagonistic to, or in conflict with, the Class that Plaintiff  
7 seeks to represent. Furthermore, Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced and competent in the  
8 prosecution of complex class action litigation.

9 96. Injunctive/Declaratory Relief: The elements of Rule 23(b)(2) are met. Sharp will  
10 continue to commit the unlawful practices alleged herein, and Class Members will remain at an  
11 unreasonable and serious safety risk as a result of the Defect. Sharp has acted and refused to act on  
12 grounds that apply generally to the Class, such that final injunctive relief and corresponding  
13 declaratory relief is appropriate respecting the Class as a whole.

14 97. Predominance: The elements of Rule 23(b)(3) are met. The common questions of  
15 law and fact enumerated above predominate over the questions affecting only individual Class  
16 Members, and a class action is the superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this  
17 controversy. The likelihood that individual Class Members will prosecute separate actions is remote  
18 due to the time and expense necessary to conduct such litigation. Serial adjudication in numerous  
19 venues is not efficient, timely, or proper. Judicial resources will be unnecessarily depleted by  
20 resolution of individual claims. Joinder on an individual basis of hundreds or thousands of claimants  
21 in one suit would be impractical or impossible. Individualized rulings and judgments could result  
22 in inconsistent relief for similarly-situated plaintiffs.

23 98. Plaintiff knows of no difficulty to be encountered in the maintenance of this action  
24 that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

25 99. Sharp has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby  
26 making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the  
27 Class as a whole.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**Strict Products Liability – Defective Design & Manufacture**  
**(Plaintiff Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated)**

100. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference each of the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

101. The Microwaves were designed, manufactured, marketed, promoted, sold, and introduced into the stream of commerce by Sharp.

102. When it left the control of Sharp, the Microwaves were expected to and did reach Plaintiff and Class Members without substantial change from the condition in which it left Sharp's control.

103. The Microwaves were defective when they left Sharp's control and were placed in the stream of commerce, in that there were foreseeable defects in the design and/or manufacture of the product.

104. The Microwaves were in an unreasonably dangerous condition at the time they left Sharp's control and were placed in the stream of commerce, and at the time they were purchased by Plaintiff and Class Members.

105. The Microwaves were unfit for their intended use, and in a defective condition which caused the product to buzz, smoke, and scorch the back panel of the Microwaves, causing damages to the Microwaves and other property in Plaintiff's home, including smoke damage to cabinetry, kitchen islands, and other portions of the kitchen, as well as damage to the food intended to have been cooked.

106. Plaintiff and the Class Members used the Microwaves in substantially the same condition they were in when they left the control of Sharp, and in the manner intended.

107. Had Sharp altered its design and manufacturing process utilizing viable alternatives, the Microwaves would not buzz, smoke, catch fire, and cause damage to the Microwaves and smoke damage to Plaintiff's and Class Members' homes.

1           108. Better and safer methods of design and manufacturing of microwave oven drawers  
2 were available and utilized by other manufacturers in the same industry.

3           109. As a direct and proximate result of Sharp's defective design and/or manufacture of  
4 the Microwaves, Plaintiff and Class Members suffered damages and economic loss as set forth  
5 herein.

6           110. Sharp is strictly liable to Plaintiff and Class Members for all damages and economic  
7 losses resulting from its defective design and/or manufacture of the Microwaves.

8           111. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Plaintiff and the Class Members  
9 suffered, and continue to suffer, financial damage and injury, and are entitled to all damages, in  
10 addition to costs, interest and fees, including attorneys' fees, as allowed by law.

11  
12                                   **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

13                                   **Breach of Implied Warranties**

14                                   **(Plaintiff Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated)**

15           112. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates all allegations raised in the preceeding  
16 Paragraphs into this cause of action and claim for relief as if fully set forth herein.

17           113. Plaintiff brings this cause of action individually and on behalf of the Class.

18           114. Sharp was at all relevant times the manufacturer, distributor, warrantor, and/or seller  
19 of the Microwaves. Sharp knew or had reason to know of the specific use for which the Microwaves  
20 were purchased.

21           115. Sharp provided Plaintiff and Class Members with implied warranties that the  
22 Microwaves were merchantable and fit for the ordinary purposes for which they were sold.

23           116. However, the Microwaves are not fit for their ordinary purpose of providing  
24 reasonably reliable and safe heating of food because, *inter alia*, the Microwaves contained a defect  
25 preventing the Microwaves from safely heating food without electrical arcing, smoking, melting  
26 the magnetron tube and potentially catching fire, as well as preventing the Microwaves from  
27 cooking food at the represented wattage. Therefore, the Microwaves are not fit for their particular  
28 purpose of safely heating and/or cooking food.

1           117. The problems associated with the defect, such as electrical arcing, smoking, melting  
2 the magnetron tube and potentially catching fire are safety risks such that the Microwaves do not  
3 provide safe reliable cooking appliances, and therefore, there is a breach of the implied warranty  
4 of merchantability. These problems are exacerbated by Sharp's failure to design and/or implement  
5 a safety function that will shut the Microwaves off in the event of arcing.

6           118. Sharp impliedly warranted that the Microwaves were of merchantable quality and  
7 fit for such use. These implied warranties included, among other things: (i) a warranty that the  
8 Microwaves were manufactured, supplied, distributed, and/or sold by Sharp were safe and reliable  
9 for heating food; and (ii) a warranty that the Microwaves would be fit for their intended use while  
10 the Microwaves were being operated.

11           119. Contrary to the applicable implied warranties, the Microwaves, at the time of sale  
12 and thereafter, were not fit for their ordinary and intended purpose of providing Plaintiff and Class  
13 Members with reliable, durable, and safe methods of heating food. Instead, the Microwaves suffer  
14 from a defective design and/or manufacture, as alleged herein.

15           120. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Plaintiff and the Class Members  
16 suffered, and continue to suffer, financial damage and injury, and are entitled to all damages, in  
17 addition to costs, interest and fees, including attorneys' fees, as allowed by law.

### **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### **Breach of Express Warranty**

#### **(Plaintiff Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated)**

19           121. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates all allegations raised in the preceding  
20 Paragraphs into this cause of action and claim for relief as if fully set forth herein.

21           122. In connection with its sale of the Microwaves, Sharp expressly warranted that they  
22 were free from defects and suitable for heating food.

23           123. The Consumer Limited Warranty states that in accordance with such warranty,  
24 Sharp, "agrees that it will, at its option, either repair the defect or replace the defective Product or  
25 part thereof with a new or remanufactured equivalent at no charge to the purchaser for parts or labor  
26 for the period(s) set forth below."  
27

1           124. Further, the Warranty Period for the Microwaves is: “One (1) year parts and labor  
2 including in-home service. The warranty period continues for an additional four (4) years, for a  
3 total of five (5) years, with respect to the magnetron tube in the Product for parts only; labor and  
4 service are not provided free of charge for this additional period.”

5           125. The defectively designed Microwaves are subject to and otherwise covered by  
6 Sharp’s Consumer Limited Warranty.

7           126. Each of the Microwave models has an identical or substantially identical warranty.

8           127. Plaintiff and the Class Members have privity of contract with Sharp through their  
9 purchase of the Microwaves, and through the express written and implied warranties that Sharp  
10 issued to its customers. Sharp’s warranties accompanied the Microwaves and were intended to  
11 benefit end-users of the Microwaves. To the extent Class Members purchased the Microwaves from  
12 third-party retailers or via the purchase of their homes, privity is not required because the Class  
13 Members are intended third-party beneficiaries of the contracts between Sharp and third-party  
14 retailers and because the express warranty is intended to benefit purchasers or owners subsequent  
15 to the third-party retailer; in other words, the contracts are intended to benefit the ultimate consumer  
16 or user of the Microwaves.

17           128. The express written warranties covering the Microwaves were a material part of the  
18 bargain between Sharp and consumers. At the time it made these express warranties, Sharp knew  
19 of the purpose for which Microwaves were to be used.

20           129. Sharp breached its express warranties by selling Microwaves that were, in actuality,  
21 not free of defects, not made for years of dependable use, not made from merchantable material and  
22 workmanship, were unsafe for use, and could not be used for the ordinary purpose of heating food.  
23 Sharp breached its express written warranties to Plaintiff and Class Members in that the  
24 Microwaves are defective at the time they leave the manufacturing plant, and on the first day of  
25 purchase, creating a serious safety risk to Plaintiff and Class Members.

1           130. Microwaves that the Plaintiff and Class Members purchased contained a defect that  
2 caused each of them damages including loss of the product, loss of the benefit of their bargain, and  
3 property damage.

4           131. Plaintiff and Class Members notified Sharp of its breach of the express warranty  
5 shortly after their Microwaves failed to perform as warranted due to the defect.

6           132. Moreover, Sharp was put on constructive notice about its breach through its review  
7 of consumer complaints and media reports described herein, and, upon information and belief,  
8 through product testing.

9           133. Sharp breached its express warranty to adequately repair or replace the Microwave  
10 despite its knowledge of the defect, and/or despite its knowledge of alternative designs, materials,  
11 and/or options for manufacturing the Microwaves.

12           134. To the extent that Sharp offered to replace the defective Microwaves, the warranty  
13 of replacement fails in its essential purpose given it is insufficient to make Plaintiff Haight and  
14 Class Members whole because the warranty covering the Microwaves gives Sharp the option to  
15 repair or replace the Microwave, where neither is sufficient. Specifically, Sharp often opts to  
16 provide a replacement Microwave; however, the replacement Microwave likewise contains the  
17 defect, resulting in the same safety risks to the owners, and the same or similar damages occur to  
18 the replacement and the owner's personal property.

19           135. Further, the repair or replacement under the Consumer Limited Warranty does not  
20 apply to all Microwaves—it necessarily only applies to the Microwaves that have manifested the  
21 latent defect and have already failed. The warranty of repair or replacement of failed Microwaves  
22 is insufficient to adequately cover all defective Microwaves, or cannot do so within the time period  
23 under either the one-year or five-year warranty periods, or within the reasonable expected service  
24 life of a Microwave at ten (10) years.

25           136. Many of the damages resulting from the defective Microwaves cannot be resolved  
26 through the limited remedy of replacement, as incidental and consequential damages have already  
27 been suffered due to Sharp's conduct as alleged herein.

1           137. Accordingly, recovery by Plaintiff and Class Members is not limited to the limited  
2 warranty of replacement, and they seek all remedies allowed by law.

3           138. Upon information and belief, Sharp received further notice and has been on notice  
4 of the defective nature of the Microwaves and of its breaches of warranties through customer  
5 warranty claims reporting problems with Sharp, consumer complaints at various sources, and its  
6 own internal and external testing. Sharp also received such notice through Plaintiff who twice  
7 complained to Sharp about the defective Microwave and resulting damage.

8           139. Despite having notice and knowledge of the defective nature of the Microwaves,  
9 Sharp failed to provide any relief to Class Members with Microwaves more than one (1) year old,  
10 failed to provide a non-defective replacement Microwave to Plaintiff and Class Members, and  
11 otherwise failed to offer any appropriate compensation from the resulting damages.

12           140. Had Plaintiff, Class Members, and the consuming public known that the  
13 Microwaves were defective, posed an unreasonable risk of harm to themselves and their property,  
14 would cause damage, or that Sharp would not properly honor its warranty, they would not have  
15 purchased the Microwaves.

16           141. As a direct and proximate result of Sharp's breach of its express written warranties,  
17 Plaintiff and Class Members did not receive the benefit of the bargain and suffered damages at the  
18 point of sale stemming from their overpayment of the defective Microwaves, in addition to loss of  
19 the product and its intended benefits.

20  
21                           **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
22                           **(IN THE ALTERNATIVE)**

23                           **Breach of Contract**  
24                           **(Plaintiff Individually and Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated)**

25           142. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates all allegations raised in the preceding  
26 Paragraphs into this cause of action and claim for relief as if fully set forth herein.

27           143. To the extent Sharp's commitment is deemed not to be a warranty under New York's  
28 Uniform Commercial Code, Plaintiff pleads in the alternative under common law warranty and  
contract law.

1 144. Plaintiff and Class Members purchased the Microwaves from Sharp or through  
2 retailers such as Home Depot, Lowe's, Amazon, and other appliance stores.

3 145. Sharp expressly warranted that the Microwaves were fit for their intended purpose  
4 and that they were free of defects, suitable for safe heating of food, and heat food at 950 watts.

5 146. Sharp made the foregoing express representations and warranties to all consumers,  
6 which became the basis of the bargain between Plaintiff, Class Members, and Sharp.

7 147. Defendant breached the warranties and/or contract obligations by placing the  
8 defective Microwaves into the stream of commerce and selling them to consumers, when they knew  
9 the Microwaves contained defects, were prone to premature failure, did not safely heat food, and  
10 did not heat food at 950 watts. These deficiencies substantially and/or completely impair the use  
11 and value of the Microwaves.

12 148. The deficiencies described existed when the Microwaves left Sharp's possession or  
13 control and were sold to Plaintiff and Class Members. The deficiencies and impairment of the use  
14 and value of the Microwaves was not discoverable by Plaintiff or Class Members at the time of the  
15 purchase of the Microwaves.

16 149. As a direct and proximate cause of Sharp's breach of contract, Plaintiff and Class  
17 Members were harmed because they would not have purchased the Microwaves if they knew the  
18 truth about the defective condition of the Microwaves.

19  
20 **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(IN THE ALTERNATIVE)**

21 **Unjust Enrichment**  
**(Plaintiff Individually and Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated)**

22 150. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates all allegations raised in the preceding  
23 Paragraphs into this cause of action and claim for relief as if fully set forth herein.

24 151. This alternative claim is asserted on behalf of Plaintiff and Class Members to the  
25 extent there is any determination that any contracts between Class Members and Sharp do not  
26 govern the subject matter of the disputes with Sharp, or that Plaintiff does not have standing to  
27 assert any contractual claims against Sharp.



1           152. Plaintiff and Class Members conferred a monetary benefit on Sharp, and Sharp had  
2 knowledge of this benefit. The average price paid by Plaintiff and Class Members for the  
3 Microwaves was more than \$900.00.

4           153. By its wrongful acts and omissions described herein, including selling the defective  
5 Microwaves, Sharp was unjustly enriched at the expense of Plaintiff and Class Members.

6           154. Plaintiff and Class Members' detriment and Sharp's enrichment were related to and  
7 flowed from the wrongful conduct alleged in this Complaint.

8           155. It would be inequitable for Sharp to retain the profits, benefits, and other  
9 compensation obtained from its wrongful conduct as described herein in connection with selling  
10 the defective Microwaves.

11           156. Plaintiff and Class Members seek restitution from Sharp and an order of this Court  
12 proportionally disgorging all profits, benefits, and other compensation obtained by Sharp from their  
13 wrongful conduct and establishing a constructive trust from which Plaintiff and Class Members  
14 may seek restitution.

15                                   **SIXTH CLAIM OF ACTION**  
16                                   **Violation Of the New York Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act**  
17                                   **New York General Business Law § 349, *et seq.***  
18                                   **(Plaintiff Individually and Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated)**

19           157. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates all allegations raised in the preceding  
20 Paragraphs into this cause of action and claim for relief as if fully set forth herein.

21           158. The conduct described herein took place within the State of New York and  
22 constitutes deceptive acts and practices, which were directed at consumers.

23           159. Sharp's foregoing deceptive acts and practices, including their omissions, were  
24 material, in part, because they concerned an essential part of the safety, durability, and functionality  
25 of the Microwaves. Sharp, when it marketed, advertised and sold the Microwaves, represented to  
26 Plaintiff and Class Members that the Microwaves were free of defects, despite the fact that the  
27 Microwaves were defective and prone to failure. The defective condition was a material fact that  
28 Sharp omitted during its packaging, sale, and subsequent warranty communications with Plaintiff  
and Class Members.

1           160. At the time of its misrepresentations, Sharp was either aware that the Microwaves  
2 were defective or was aware that it lacked the information and/or knowledge required to make such  
3 a representation truthfully. Sharp concealed, omitted and failed to disclose this information to  
4 Plaintiff and Class Members.

5           161. Rather than disclose its knowledge of defects, Sharp engaged in and continued a  
6 widespread uniform, marketing, and advertising campaign that misrepresented the Microwaves as  
7 being free of defects and suitable for safe heating of food.

8           162. Sharp's descriptions and advertisements of the Microwaves were false, misleading,  
9 and likely to deceive Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers.

10           163. Sharp's foregoing deceptive acts and practices, including their omissions were and  
11 are deceptive acts or practices in violation of New York's General Business Law § 349, in that  
12 Sharp manufactured, labeled, packaged, advertised, distributed, and/or sold the Microwaves as  
13 being free of defect, when they knew or should have known, that the Microwaves were defective,  
14 prone to failure, and posed a safety hazard to Plaintiff and Class Members. More specifically,  
15 Sharp's website and brochures contained the numerous false and misleading statements regarding  
16 the quality, durability, and reliability of the Microwaves. These include, *inter alia*, the following:  
17 misrepresentations:

18           "SHARP ELECTRONICS CORPORATION warrants to the first consumer  
19 purchaser that this Sharp brand product (the "Product"), when shipped in its original  
20 container, will be free from defective workmanship and materials"

21           The Warranty includes "One (1) year parts and labor including in-home service.  
22 The warranty period continues for an additional four (4) years, for a total of five (5)  
23 years, with respect to the magnetron tube in the Product for parts only; labor and  
24 service are not provided free of charge for this additional period."

25           "Cooking Performance You Can Trust"

26           "COOKING PERFORMANCE FROM ONE OF THE MOST TRUSTED  
27 BRANDS IN MICROWAVES"

28           "Sharp has been innovating microwave cooking for decades and holds eleven  
patents on the Microwave Drawer alone. You can trust that the Microwave Drawer

1 will deliver the performance you need because it is engineered for great cooking  
2 results and is built with the finest quality materials.”

3 The Microwaves heat food at “950 watts.”

4 “Sharp has been innovating microwave cooking for decades and holds 11  
5 patents on the Microwave Drawer platform alone. Engineered for consistency and  
6 built with the finest quality materials, great cooks trust the Microwave Drawer to  
7 deliver great results every time.”

8 “The Sharp Microwave Drawer Oven has been designed to complement the widest  
9 range of kitchen styles and appliances. The sleek low profile design and a stainless  
10 steel finish beautifully compliment any kitchen.”

11 164. Had Sharp disclosed the true defective nature of the Microwaves, Plaintiff and Class  
12 Members would not have purchased the Microwaves or would have paid substantially less for them.

13 165. Plaintiff and the Class Members suffered damages when they purchased the  
14 Microwaves. Sharp’s unconscionable, deceptive and/or unfair practices caused damages to  
15 Plaintiffs and Class Members who were unaware that the Microwaves contained inherent defects  
16 and were prone to premature failure.

17 **SEVENTH CLAIM OF ACTION**  
18 **Violation Of the New York Deceptive Sales Practices Act**  
19 **New York General Business Law § 350, *et seq.***  
20 **(Plaintiff Individually and Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated)**

21 166. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates all allegations raised in the preceding  
22 Paragraphs into this cause of action and claim for relief as if fully set forth herein.

23 167. New York General Business Law § 350 declares unlawful “[f]alse advertising in the  
24 conduct of any business, trade or commerce....” The term “false advertising” includes “labeling, of  
25 a commodity,...if such advertising is misleading in a material respect.” N. Y. Gen. Bus. L. § 350-  
26 a(1). In determining whether advertising is misleading, the law takes into account not only  
27 representations made by statement, word, design, or any combination thereof, but also the “extent  
28 to which the advertising fails to reveal facts material in light of such representations...” N.Y. Gen.  
Bus. L. § 350-a(1).

168. As more fully set forth above, Sharp's conduct described herein violates New York General Business Law § 350. Sharp, while engaged in the conduct of business, trade and commerce, did attempt to directly and/or indirectly induce consumers to purchase the Microwaves by its labeling. In doing so, Sharp utilized false labeling which did not represent the true nature and quality of the Microwaves, but rather misled consumers into believing that the product was free of defects, was suitable and safe for heating food, heated food at 950 watts, and in other ways described herein. The false labeling was materially misleading and materially deceiving to reasonable consumers at large acting reasonably under the circumstances.

169. Sharp's conduct caused and continues to cause injury to consumers, including Plaintiff and Class Members, who were misled to believe that they were purchasing a superior, durable, and safe product, when they were not.

170. In making and disseminating the false labeling, Sharp knew or should have known that its practices were materially deceptive and misleading. Plaintiff and Class Members based their decision to purchase the Microwaves, in substantial part, on Sharp's labeling, advertisements, material representations, and omitted facts. The revenue to Sharp attributable to the sale of the Microwaves likely amounts to millions of dollars.

171. Based on all of the foregoing, Sharp has violated New York General Business Law § 350, causing Plaintiff and Class Members to sustain injury in fact – the loss of monies paid for the Microwaves and other damage associated with the Microwave failure.

#### **EIGHTH CLAIM OF ACTION**

##### **Negligence**

##### **(Plaintiff Individually and Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated)**

172. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates all allegations raised in the preceding Paragraphs into this cause of action and claim for relief as if fully set forth herein.

173. At all times material hereto, Sharp designed and manufactured the Microwaves.

1           174. Sharp had a duty to Plaintiff and to Class Members to design and manufacture  
2 Microwaves that were free of latent defects, which would not overheat the magnetron, scorch the  
3 back of the unit, cause damage to the food being cooked, cause smoke damage to other parts of the  
4 home, including kitchen islands and cabinetry, and that presents serious safety risks as a result of a  
5 malfunctioning electrical appliance.

6           175. Sharp had a duty to design and manufacture the Microwaves such that there was a  
7 mechanism to prevent arcing, or otherwise prevent the Microwave from further functioning and  
8 overheating the magnetron once arcing occurred.

9           176. Sharp had a duty to Plaintiff and to Class Members to test the Microwaves to ensure  
10 adequate performance of the Microwaves for a reasonable period of use, and to ensure they would  
11 not be subject to premature failure, or would cause damage to food or smoke damage to the home.

12           177. Sharp had a duty to Plaintiff and to Class Members to ensure that the magnetron  
13 tube, waveguide, and other components were suitable, either by testing or by verifying third-party  
14 test results.

15           178. Sharp had a duty to Plaintiff and to Class Members to ensure that the Microwaves  
16 complied with industry standards, testing, and safety guidelines.

17           179. Sharp had a duty to Plaintiff and Class Members to forewarn purchasers, installers,  
18 and users regarding the known risk of product failures.

19           180. Sharp failed to exercise ordinary and reasonable care in the design and manufacture  
20 of the Microwaves and in determining whether the Microwaves that it sold, and continued to sell,  
21 contained a latent defect that would result in the failure of the Microwaves to perform as reasonably  
22 expected.

23           181. Sharp failed to exercise ordinary and reasonable care in the design and manufacture  
24 of the Microwaves and breached the foregoing duties.

25           182. Sharp breached its duty to the Plaintiff and Class Members to test the Microwaves  
26 to ensure adequate performance of the Microwaves for a reasonable period of use.

27           183. Sharp breached its duty to Plaintiff and to Class Members to ensure that the  
28

1 Microwave components were suitable, either by testing or by verifying third-party test results.

2 184. Sharp breached its duty to Plaintiff and to Class Members to ensure that the  
3 Microwaves complied with industry standards, safety guidelines, and testing standards.

4 185. Sharp breached its duty to Plaintiff and to Class Members to forewarn purchasers,  
5 installers, and users regarding the known risk of product failures.

6 186. The negligence of Sharp, its agents, servants, and/or employees, include the  
7 foregoing, as well as the following acts and/or omissions:

- 8
- 9 (a) designing, manufacturing, processing, distributing, delivering, supplying,  
10 inspecting, marketing and/or selling Microwaves without adequately and  
thoroughly testing them to all applicable standards and safety guidelines;
  - 11 (b) designing, manufacturing, processing, distributing, delivering, supplying,  
12 inspecting, marketing and/or selling Microwaves without adequately testing  
long term performance;
  - 13 (c) negligently failing to ensure that the Microwaves conformed to all applicable  
industry standards, safety guidelines, and testing standards; and
  - 14 (d) concealing information concerning the defect inherent in the Microwaves from  
15 Plaintiff and the Class Members, while knowing that Sharp's Microwaves were  
16 defective and non-conforming with accepted industry standards and safety  
guidelines.

17 187. Plaintiff and the Class Members have been damaged because the defective  
18 Microwaves do not perform the ordinary purpose of heating food safely.

19 188. Plaintiff and Class Members have also been damaged as a direct and proximate  
20 result of the negligence, carelessness, recklessness, willfulness, and wanton behavior of Sharp as  
21 aforesaid, including, but not limited to, damage to the Product, loss of the food being cooked, smoke  
22 damage to kitchen islands and cabinetry, and related safety risks.

23 189. As Sharp's conduct was grossly negligent, reckless, willful, wanton, intentional,  
24 fraudulent, or the like, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to an award of punitive damages  
25 against Sharp.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, respectfully requests that this Court:

- A. Certify the Class pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
- B. Name Plaintiff as Class Representatives and her counsel as Class Counsel;
- C. Award damages, including compensatory, exemplary, and statutory damages, to Plaintiff and the Class in an amount to be determined at trial;
- D. Grant restitution to Plaintiff and the Class and require Sharp to disgorge its ill-gotten gains;
- E. Permanently enjoin Sharp Electronics Corporation from engaging in the wrongful and unlawful conduct alleged herein;
- F. Award Plaintiff and the Class their expenses and costs of suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law;
- G. Award Plaintiff and the Class pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the highest legal rate to the extent provided by law; and
- H. Award such further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

DATED: March 27, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jonathan K. Tycko

Jonathan K. Tycko  
Hassan A. Zavareei\*  
Andrea Gold\*

**TYCKO & ZAVAREEI**

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